HONDA ServiceNews August 2003

Set Clock at PDI: ’04 Civic LX, EX

With the release of the ’04 Civic 2- and 4-door models just around the corner, here’s something you need to be aware of when you do PDI: There’s a new procedure for setting the clock on models with CD units (LX and EX only). Here’s how you do it:

1. Press and hold the **CLOCK** (**SCAN/RPT**) button until you hear a beep. Release the button.
2. Change the hours by pressing the **H** (Preset 4) button until the numbers advance to the desired time.
3. Change the minutes by pressing the **M** (Preset 5) button until the numbers advance to the desired time.
4. When you’re done, press the **CLOCK** (**SCAN/RPT**) button to restart the clock.

Find and Fix Those Pesky DTC P1456 Problems

Has this happened to you? You’re chasing down a DTC P1456 [EVAP control system leakage (fuel tank system)] problem. You’ve done all the published tests, and everything passes. So you return the vehicle to your customer, and you get a comeback for the same problem.

The reason could be thermal expansion. Since testing requires the engine to be at its normal operating temperature, thermal expansion of the fuel tank, couplers, hoses, and valves can seal up a leak and let the system pass the test. When your customer starts the vehicle, the ECM/PCM tests the integrity of the fuel-tank side of the EVAP system within **30 seconds** of a cold start. So if there’s a leak in the system, it’s going to show up here, while the engine is still cold.

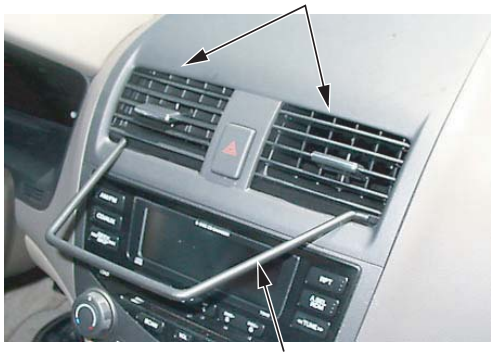
The best thing to do in this case is to keep your customer’s vehicle overnight so the EVAP system can cool to the same temperature at which your customer starts the vehicle. The next morning, turn the ignition switch to ON (II), and check the fuel tank pressure sensor voltage. If the voltage is at or near **2.5 volts**, there may be a leak in the system. To check for a leak, do the vacuum tests in S/B 99-075, *Troubleshooting DTC P1456 and P1457,* and the DTC P1456 test in the April ’02 S/N article “DTC P1456 or P1457 Still Set? Test for Internal Leaks.”

Removing the Upper Panel in ’03–04 Accords

When it comes to removing the upper panel in ’03–04 Accords, we can’t emphasize enough the importance of doing it properly. If you don’t follow the proper procedure and just yank the panel out, you could cause the center lower clip on the panel to fall down into the center module. In vehicles with navi, this could do some serious damage to the navi display module; in non-navi vehicles, the clip will make a bothersome rattle.

Here’s the proper way to remove the upper panel:

1. Turn up the center vents.
2. Insert the ends of the upper panel removal tool (T/N 07AAC-SDAA100) into the lower corners of the center vent openings.



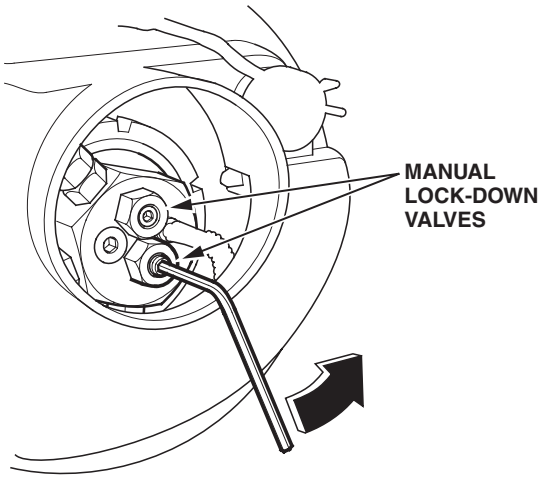
3. Push in the hazard warning switch. Carefully insert a small flat-tip screwdriver into the access slot for the upper panel center clip.

4. While pressing down on the center clip with the screwdriver, grab the removal tool, and pull back the upper panel to release the clips on each side.

Open Manual Lock-Down Valves On New CNG Tanks

When replacing a fuel tank in a ’98–03 Civic GX, remember to open the two manual lock-down valves on the new tank before filling it. Replacement fuel tanks are shipped with the manual lock-down valves in the closed position.

To open the manual lock-down valves, use a 3/16-inch hex wrench to turn the hex bolt on each valve counterclockwise until it stops.



Glove Box Light Leakage in ’03 Accords

The glove box light in ’03 Accords comes on any time the parking lights or headlights are on. If your customer is bothered by light leaking from the glove box, just apply a **10 x 5 x 400 mm** strip of EPT foam to the dashboard where the glove box lid meets the dashboard. Try to position the foam so it’s not too noticeable when you close the lid.

ETM Fix: Interior Lights, ’03 Accord

While we’re on the subject of the glove box light, if you’re still using the Second Edition of the 2003 Accord ETM, you need to revise page 114-4. Cross out the glove box light switch; there’s no such critter on this model. Better yet, go into ISIS and print out a copy of page 114-4 from the online ETM. It has the correct configuration.

Plastic Panel Coating Now Available: ’03 Element

Here’s some good news for ’03 Element owners driving around with scratched or scuffed plastic cladding. There’s a cool product now available from Honda parts stock that can cover up those unsightly blemishes. It’s called Plastic Panel Coating (P/N 08732-9011, H/C 7499551) and it’s a quick-drying, transparent spray. This spray doesn’t eliminate the scratches, nor does it hide all of them, but for customers on a budget, it sure beats shelling out cash to replace cladding.

Here are some helpful tips when using this product:

- Make sure the affected area on the cladding is clean and dry.
- Use this spray *only* on the cladding. If you get the spray on any other exterior or interior surface, wipe it off right away.
- This spray loses its punch over time. After repeated washings, those scratches and scuffs are noticeable again. A good rule of thumb is to inspect the affected areas after each washing and to reapply the coating to the cladding whenever the painted surfaces of the vehicle need waxing.

No Reman Program for *i*-VES

If you’re doing repairs on an accessory DVD- or VCR-based *i*-VES in a ’03–04 Accord, ’99–03 Odyssey, or ’03 Pilot, keep in mind there’s no remanufacturing program available. If an *i*-VES component needs repair or replacement, order and install new parts.

Activating XM Satellite Radio in ’04 Accord EXs

The ’04 Accords are here, and the EX-L and EX-V6 models come with XM Satellite Radio. During PDI, make sure you activate the XM radio demo service; if you don’t, the XM radio has only a preview capability. To enjoy the full features of the radio, the new owner would need to come back to your dealership and have the service activated. To activate the service, refer to S/B 03-046, *2004 Accord: PDI and New Model Information*.

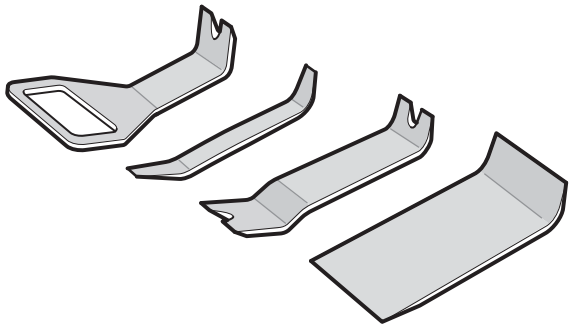
If you ever need to replace the XM radio receiver, you’ll need to call the XM Satellite Radio folks at **800-852-9696**. When you call, be prepared to give them the VIN and the eight-digit XM radio ID numbers from the old and new receivers.

Do Backup Sensors Fit ’99–02 Odysseys?

The answer to that question is **YES**. The backup sensor kit for the ’03 Odyssey can be installed on ’99–02 models, but it’s a real chore to do. The rear bumper for the ’03 model has markings on the back side to mark the location of the sensor cutouts. The rear bumpers on ’99–02 models don’t have these marks, so you’ll need to transfer them from the rear bumper of an ’03 model. You’ll need to be really careful when you do this, because if you don’t position the sensors exactly, the backup sensor system won’t work right.

Trim Tool Set Makes Trim Removal a Snap

Tired of wrapping a screwdriver with tape to remove trim pieces on Honda models? Well, try using the KTC Trim Tool Set (SOJATP2014). This nifty special tool consists of four trim tools, each made of durable plastic. These tools greatly reduce the possibility of surface scratches or component damage.



On ’03–04 Accords, these tools make short work of removing the A/C trim piece and the inner door panels. On ’03 Elements, they’re just the thing for removing the exterior plastic cladding, side sills, inner door panels, right-side instrument panel, and the lower tailgate trim.

If you need to order more tool sets, call the Honda Tool and Equipment Program at **888-424-6857**.

Keep Element Interior Clean

To convey that rugged, outdoor image, the ’03 Element comes with no floor carpeting. This means everything you track in from the great outdoors shows up on its urethane-coated utility floor. This is especially a problem around the pedal areas, where the stuff tends to settle in the nooks and crannies.

When doing PDI or servicing on an Element, take a few extra minutes to check the floor to make sure it’s clean. Vacuum up any loose stuff, and use a clean cloth and suitable cleaner to wipe off any stubborn marks or stains.

AUTOMOTIVE Youth Educational Systems YES ®

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